March 2, 1994 Contact: Denise Horstman

FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMS FOR *LASTING IMPRESSIONS*

Free Sunday afternoon events continue for the popular exhibition **Lasting Impressions: Illustrating African-American Children's Books**, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art through April 17, 1994. The following information supercedes the preliminary list of programs in the press release for the exhibition. All events are free and require *no* pre-registration.

In a pair of events called *Meet the Illustrators*, two artists will discuss their work. Ann Grifalconi leads off, this Sunday (March 6) at 2:30 pm; she is represented in the exhibition by *The Village of Round and Square Houses*, *Darkness and the Butterfly*, and *Kinda Blue*. Brian Pinkney will appear on Sunday, April 17, at 2:30 pm; honors for this artist in his mid-30s include the Coretta Scott King Honor Book award in 1993 for his scratchboard and oil pastel pictures for *Sukey and the Mermaid*, two of which are in **Lasting Impressions**; pictures from *The Boy and the Ghost* and *The Ballad of Belle Dorcas* are also on view. Mr. Pinkney comes from a talented family: his father, Jerry Pinkney, is a highly acclaimed illustrator and served as curator for this exhibition; his mother, Gloria Jean, is a writer; his most recent work includes illustrations for *Benjamin Banaker*, written by his wife, Andrea Davis Pinkney. He says, "When I do the research for a black folk tale or find the reference for a historical or contemporary African-American story, I'm fascinated by how rich my culture is and continues to be;" of his trademark technique, he comments, "Working in scratchboard was an important turning point in my career....When I etch the drawing out of the board, I get a rhythm going with my lines which feels like sculpture to me."

Storytelling events--which have been standing-room-only--conclude Sunday, April 10, with a presentation of African-American folklore at 2:30 pm by Elizabeth Williams Young. She brings to her readings over twenty years' service to children in the Cleveland Public Library and the East Cleveland Public Library.

* * *

Lasting Impressions highlights fifteen of the best and most honored illustrators of widely read children's books who have consistently presented positive, non-stereotypical images of African-Americans in children's literature. The Museum has scheduled the exhibition in conjunction with Black History Month. It was organized by A Cultural Exchange, a non-profit arts organization for children in Cleveland, in collaboration with the California Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles. The TRW Foundation is providing support for the exhibition and associated programs.

###